

Keep TMO from Becoming TM-Ouch

Make Your Move
A Strategic One



▲ **"Mommy, make them go away!"** says 4-year-old Collin Fisher to his mother, Dana Fisher. The move is Collin's first and the stress of watching his family's belongings being packed was hard on him. The Fishers tried, with limited success, to prepare Collin and his brother, Jared, 2, for the move that would take them from the only home they've ever known.

Photo by Staff Sgt. David L. Crockett

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> **“Lights, camera, packing tape, action!”** Making a videotape of personal belongings before they get packed and shipped is a good way to document their existence and their condition. Videotaping while the movers pack, as Dana Fisher does here, also puts pressure on the packers to be a bit more careful.

Photo by Staff Sgt. David L. Crockett



MARINES HAVE A LOT IN COMMON; all are riflemen and all had a drill instructor with bad breath and a spitting problem. Another common thread is the sometimes joyous, sometimes sad fact that they all have to relocate at some point in their careers – whether from one assignment to the next or the final move out of the Corps and back to the block. They all have to do it.

The Transportation Management Office is there to help make those moves a little less stressful. For every move of household goods on Uncle Sam’s dime, TMO is a must-visit spot on the Marines’ checklists. TMO schedules the transportation of household goods to Marines’ new homes. The earlier an appointment is made, the better their chances of getting the moving date they desire.

But, getting the requested date for the move is only the first step in making the move a more relaxing and stress free adventure. “Marines” offers

a few other tips from TMO that can help make the move a little easier.

Buy optional insurance. During the initial TMO counseling appointment, ask about insurance options on personal belongings. Basic insurance coverage is free, but only covers up to \$1.25 for every pound moved. For instance, a shipment of 10,000 pounds is insured up to \$12,500. Additional

coverage can be purchased to cover up to 100 percent of the shipment, but must be done at the time of counseling.

Do a “door-to-door” move, if possible. If a new residence is ready and waiting, have the movers pick up at the old home and deliver directly to the new one. Otherwise, the goods are shipped to a storage facility where they are unpacked and repacked several

times before making it to the new home, increasing the possibility of property damage.

Have a pre-move survey with the company conducting the move. At the very least talk on the phone, in person is even better. Give a heads up about unusual or difficult-to-move items, like pianos, pool tables, large screen TVs, fish tanks and glass tables.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David L. Crockett

Beating the White Glove

Ask anyone who has cleared housing and they will tell you it isn’t always fun. Here are ten tips from the pros to make cleaning a little easier.

1. Crayon Marks – Use a blow dryer to soften the crayon marks. Once the waxy crayon softens, use a paper towel to wipe up the smudge.

2. Wooden Cabinets – Using paste wax is good for cleaning wooden cabinets. It removes the grease from the cabinets.

3. Window Stickers – To remove window stickers (car or house), douse a paper towel in rubbing alcohol and place it against the sticker for 30-45 seconds. The sticker should peel right off. Fingernail polish remover will also work.

4. Mildewed Refrigerator – Vinegar mixed with water is an excellent cleaner for a musty, mildewed refrigerator.

5. Oven Stains – For tough in the oven, apply ammonia and let stand overnight. Place oven racks and burner caps in heavy duty trash bags and soak with ammonia as well.

6. Toilet Stains – Denture cleaner will clean stains in toilets. Just drop several tablets into standing water.

7. Rust Stains – Use naval jelly to remove rust stains in driveways and under wrought iron railings.

8. Fiberglass Tub – If the luster in a fiberglass tub is gone, wash with ammonia and shine with fiberglass boat wax with fungicide.

9. Cleaning Windows in Winter – Use alcohol or windshield-wiper fluid to clean windows in freezing temperatures.

10. Oil Stains – Use cat litter (without chlorophyll) or sawdust to soak up most oil stains in the garage.

Tips like these can go on and on, but with a little elbow grease, clearing housing can be simple. Don’t forget to keep cleaning supplies handy for final inspection. Items like single-edged razorblades, rags, liquid cleaner and a broom are great for last minute touchups. For a complete list of cleaning tips contact your Military Family Housing.



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Roadside Assistance: The Move Everyone Rates

Marines rate TMO moves from their homes of record to their first duty stations. But many Marines are single when they first come in and carry only what's in their sea bag to their first duty station, and never get around to having anything shipped from home.

What most Marines don't know, is that they still rate that first TMO shipment from their homes of record throughout their entire career, no matter how many other TMO moves they've done.

In other words, if you're a sergeant, gunny or sergeant major, and never used that first TMO move, you can finally have that "binky" blanket and baseball card collection taking up your parent's closet space shipped right to your closet.

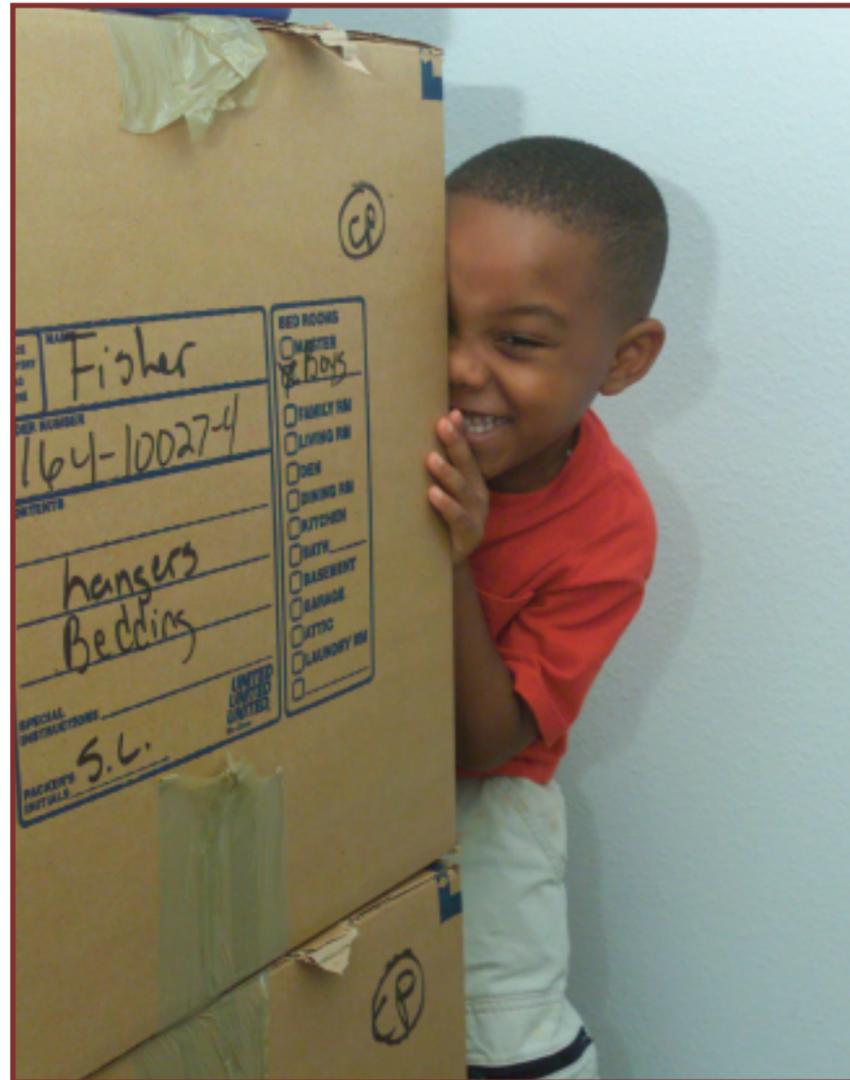
What to Take to TMO:

- 1st page of original enlistment contract
- Orders from graduation of boot camp stating graduating rank
- Orders to first duty station

For more information, contact the local TMO office.

Editor's Note: This is why it is important to keep a copy of all your original orders just like you're told. Got Orders?

ORIGINAL ORDERS



▲ "Peek-a-boo." Collin Fisher is more interested in playing than how the boxes are labeled. But, making sure boxes are clearly labeled will help with sorting at the new home. This will help ensure the family computer doesn't get unpacked in the kitchen.

If you have original cartons and packing, provide those to the packers.

Provide the transport company with solid contact numbers.

A cellular phone number or the phone number of a relative is often a good way to go. Once at the destination, contact TMO right away – even if you don't have a place to

live yet. Let them know immediately when the new residence is received.

Have a yard sale or give unwanted items to a thrift store. Paying for an overweight shipment can cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Trimming the total weight of the shipment will keep this to a minimum. Throw away all trash before the movers arrive, so it doesn't get packed and counted against the final shipping



▲ "Tell me again how this fits into suitcase?" Capt. Neal Fisher and his wife Dana Fisher take a moment from a pile of clothes to go over a few issues, like what to do for lunch and how many pairs of socks they should pack. Working together and keeping a good sense of humor about the move helps keep their stress levels down, the Fishers said.

weight.

Ensure all boxes containing Professional Books, Papers and Equipment are marked "PBP&E." Because professional gear does not count against the total weight, labeling those boxes as "books" or "miscellaneous" just doesn't cut it. Some items considered pro gear are official reference books, military papers' specialized clothing, such as diving and flight suits, tools for mechanics' specially issued

Roadside Assistance: Moving Your Pet



- If moving outside the United States check for quarantines.
- If possible, personally visit any kennel where your pet will be quarantined.
- Introduce your pet to any travel container weeks in advance.
- Be sure your pet has a collar with contact information to a permanent place of residence such as a family member.
- Professionals disagree about medicating pets for travel. Ask your vet for advice.
- Clip your pet's nails for travel.
- Give your pet as much exercise as possible to minimize restlessness.
- Look for signs of stress in your pet such as a fast heartbeat or hair and feather loss. Give them extra attention during and after the move.
- If flying, check costs. Transporting a pet can cost as much as \$3,000.

Some Useful Numbers:

American Veterinary Association – 800/248-2862

Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health – 800/545-8732

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture – Animal and Plants Health Inspections – 301/734-4981

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▲ **"Rock-a-by Daddy..."** Rocking his son to sleep backfires on Capt. Neal Fisher after a long night and day of packing. Moving is a stressful part of Marine Corps life, but planning and participating in the process can help keep it from becoming overwhelming.

field clothing or equipment', and official awards and memorabilia given to a member by a uniformed service.

Have expensive and valuable items such as artwork and collectables appraised. Although the government will not pay for appraisals, it's a good investment in case of damage or loss. Take photographs or video of all household goods. This will help identify any damaged or lost valuables, such as furniture and electronics.

Supervise the packers. The closer



▲ **"Once upon a time..."** Dana Fisher shares stories of past moving nightmares with Shanna Lewis, a packing contractor for Hilldrup Moving and Storage. Fisher has learned that communication and supervision are the keys to ensuring the movers properly pack her belongings. Remember, however, to give the movers a break. They aren't the same ones who broke your family heirloom last move.

they are supervised while packing and unpacking, the greater the chance of ensuring the job's done right. Be especially sure to supervise the packing of electronics.

Put things the movers shouldn't pack in a room in which they aren't allowed to enter. Do not ship small, extremely valuable items such as

stocks, bonds, jewelry, coin collections, and items of great sentimental value such as photo albums. This includes pets. Cats like to nap in boxes. Movers often seal boxes with little thought. Do the math.

Keep track of furniture screws and other hardware and ensure they are clearly marked. It's a long way

to the new home and the movers unpacking your goods will not be the ones that packed them.

Bottom line, the more involved service members become with their moves, the more successful the move will be. For more information about the moving process, contact your



▲ **Going wireless.** Jared and Collin Fisher resort to low-tech entertainment as their VCR and other toys are packed for shipment to their new home. Parents can reduce their children's trauma by keeping out a few toys to keep them entertained during the move.

Roadside Assistance: Important Documents to Hand-Carry

- Permanent change of duty orders
- Military and insurance ID cards
- A copy of medical, dental and optical records
- Car registration and title
- Power-of-attorney records
 - Birth certificates
 - Social security cards
 - Copies of wills
 - School transcripts and referral letters
 - Marriage and divorce papers
 - Pet immunization records
- State and federal income tax records
- Deeds
- Bank account and credit card information
- A list of stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other investments
- Adoption papers
- Letters of credit from previous utility companies to waive utility deposits
- Passports
- A copy of latest leave and earnings statement
- Spouse's resumes, certificates, professional licenses and transcripts

In addition to carrying important documents, be sure to destroy unneeded papers such as old bills and credit card applications. This will cut down on the weight of the shipment and help keep personal information personal.